

## **WARDEN MESSAGE**

### **Overseas taxpayers can use Irs free file to prepare and e-file tax returns**

This is to inform American citizens resident in Nairobi that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides a free service to assist U.S. citizens and resident aliens living outside the United States to file their U.S. tax returns. Americans abroad can use IRS Free File to prepare and file their federal tax returns electronically. IRS Free File is brand-name software that is offered exclusively at IRS.gov, through a partnership with the tax software industry.

There are five companies that accept foreign addresses. Taxpayers should review the list of tax forms supported by the company to ensure it meets their needs, especially Form 1116, Foreign Tax Credit, and/or Form 2555, Foreign Earned Income.

To be eligible, taxpayers' adjusted gross income in 2010 must be \$58,000 or less. Some overseas taxpayers may exclude \$91,500 of their 2010 foreign earnings, which would make more people eligible for IRS Free File.

Free File software generally asks questions and taxpayers supply the answers. The software completes the proper tax forms, does the math, and allows for free electronic filing through IRS e-file. By filing electronically, taxpayers due refunds and who have U.S. bank accounts can opt for direct deposit and get their refunds in as few as 10 days.

To get started with [\*\*IRS Free File\*\*](#) and select "Pick a Free File Company."

Taxpayers with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) over \$58,000 can e-file their returns by purchasing online software. Check the software provider's information to ensure that it can accommodate a foreign address.

U.S. Embassy Nairobi would also like to take the opportunity to remind American citizens that if you reside overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must be paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

American Citizen Services Unit  
Consular Section

U.S. Embassy Nairobi

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